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ABSTRACT

This guide provides curriculum developers, education faculty, veteran teachers, and student teachers with basic information on the background of early childhood curriculum, as well as current information on publications, standards, and special materials for early childhood classrooms. Following an introduction, the material is presented in 14 chapters by different contributors. Chapter 1 discusses the history and development of present-day curriculum and the directions it is taking. Chapter 2 is a practical guide to creating or revising an early childhood curriculum. Funding sources for curriculum projects are listed in chapter 3, and chapter 4 outlines the content of integrated early childhood education. Chapter 5 describes state guidelines for early childhood education, and chapter 6 lists department of education addresses and publication titles for each state. Classroom assessment is the focus of chapter 7, and chapter 8 consists of annotated lists of curriculum guides for prekindergarten through grade three. Chapter 9 discusses the project approach in early childhood curriculum. Chapter 10 covers trade books, and chapter 11 lists sources of textbooks, software, videos, and other curriculum materials. Chapter 12 lists textbooks and materials adopted by New Mexico and West Virginia, two states with policies specific to the adoption of textbooks in early childhood education. Chapter 13 provides an index to reviews of early childhood textbooks and supplementary materials. Chapter 14 lists subscribers of the Kraus Development Library, a source of curriculum guides in early childhood education. A reference list is provided with some of the chapters. The appendix reprints sections of two exemplary curriculum guides. (TJQ)